



Stay on **TRRAC** . . .

With Multi-Family Recycling

Think Reduce and Recycle at Apartments and Condominiums in Montgomery County, Maryland

Issue No. 12, June 2009

SAVE THE DATE

June 20, 2009

Quince Orchard Library

Community Day Festival

15831 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

June 25, 2009

Recycling Volunteer Orientation

101 Monroe Street
Lobby Level Auditorium
Rockville, Maryland 20850
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
To register, contact the
Recycling Volunteer Program
at 240-777-6445 or e-mail
recycle@montgomerycountymd.gov

August 4, 2009

National Night Out

Plan a community event!

For more information about these events, call 240-777-6446 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

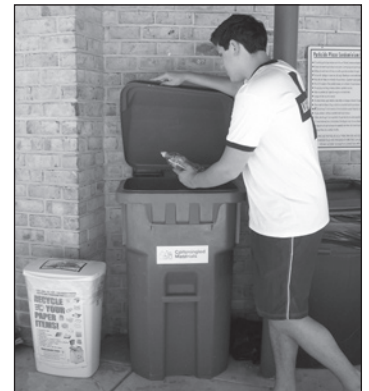
**Reduce your
carbon footprint.**



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Simple Ways to Recycle More Outdoors

With spring turning to summer and your residents enjoying more outdoor activities, now is a great time to evaluate your outdoor areas for recycling convenience. You can increase recycling participation at your property by taking a few simple steps to ensure that wherever trash containers are located, so are recycling containers. Place recycling containers for commingled materials and mixed paper in common areas including near playgrounds, gazebos, pools, walkways, picnic areas, community rooms, and vending machines. Making your recycling containers accessible not only serves as a visual reminder to your residents to do the right thing, but also conveys the commitment your property has to recycling and protecting the environment.



Magazines and water bottles can be recycled poolside at Parkside Plaza.



Many local hardware and office supply stores sell appropriate containers, and you can also purchase containers through online retailers. If you would like your recycling collection contractor to collect the material directly from these recycling containers, consult them to find out what containers and locations are compatible with their collection systems/trucks. Once you have the containers on site, make sure they are clearly labeled. The Division of Solid Waste Services can provide labels. If your recycling collection contractor is not collecting the material directly from these recycling containers, select staff or ask residents to volunteer to empty them into the central collection containers collected under your current recycling collection contract.

Watch out! The added convenience may result in more recycling participation that in turn requires additional recycling capacity, either through additional collection days or containers. But, wherever you see increases in recycling capacity, you should also see decreases in the trash capacity, and that equates to a decrease in cost for your property!



Convenient sidewalk recycling containers promote participation at Glen Way Gardens.

Montgomery County Celebrates Earth Month

Many individuals and organizations celebrate Earth Day, April 22, with activities throughout the month, which is why April is now known as Earth Month. The Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) participated in over 56 events during April across the County, including 10 events at multi-family properties. These events celebrated environmental stewardship and provided helpful tips on how to reduce waste and recycle. The TRRAC team participated in a wide variety of events, ranging from training kitchen staff to multi-family community recycling events. County staff set up recycling tables, presentations, and answered residents' recycling questions. Thank you to the following properties for inviting us to participate in their Earth Month activities: The Blairs, The Chateau, Holly Hall Apartments,

Leisure World - Fairways South, The Oaks at Four Corners, Riderwood Village, Triangle Towers, Victory Terrace, and Willow Manor at Fair Hill Farm.

You can keep the momentum going by planning your own events this summer to raise awareness and increase recycling achievement at your property. Consider the following tips for attracting the most residents and making the event a success — both from your perspective and the residents:

- ♻️ Pair recycling topics with other popular topics (like energy conservation, recreational opportunities, or food tastings) or a free service, like paper shredding, donation opportunities or a yard sale.

- ♻️ Make it a fun family affair and encourage all generations to participate. Or, have separate events that target individual groups. For example, you could have a children's book reading that features a book on recycling (and some cookies) in addition to a twenty-something's social with a short recycling presentation.

- ♻️ Find residents who would like to help coordinate the events and spread the word.

- ♻️ Advertise your event early to your residents through posted and distributed flyers and e-mails.

Use a little creativity and you can have a fun and informative environmental conservation celebration of your own any time of the year. The TRRAC team would love to participate, so call 240-777-6446 to schedule your event!



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Resident volunteers promote recycling and waste reduction at Riderwood Village in Silver Spring and collect unwanted eyeglasses for reuse.



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Several Riderwood Village residents discuss what items are and are not recyclable.



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Despite the rain, the 4REarth recycling and donation event at the Blairs in Silver Spring was a success. Participants could donate and/or recycle 11 types of materials, including furniture, clothing, and electronics.

INNOVATION HIGHLIGHT:

The Gallery at White Flint Looks 'Inside the Box'



The Gallery at White Flint Maintenance Supervisor Daniel Carrion and Julio Ramirez display the packing material available for residents to use.

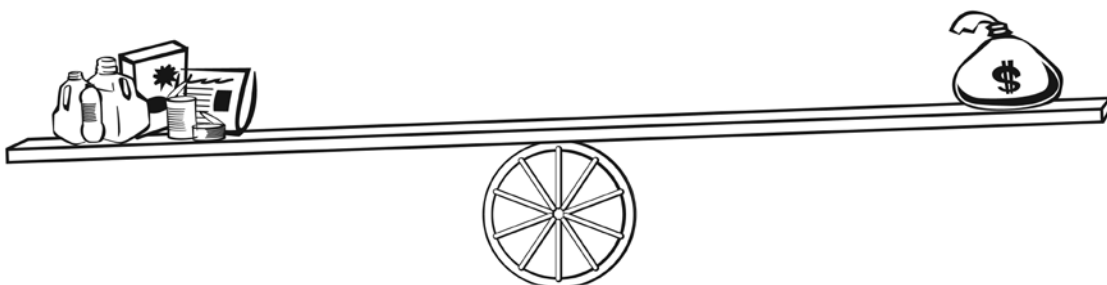
When a resident disposed of a flat screen television box, Gallery at White Flint Maintenance Supervisor Daniel Carrion noticed just how much packaging material potentially goes into the waste stream. Recognizing an opportunity to reduce waste while also providing a valuable service to their residents, Mr. Carrion implemented a creative solution and transformed that television box into a common receptacle for residents to deposit unwanted packing peanuts and foam. Now, residents at the Gallery at White Flint can continually reuse and share their unwanted packing material. Reusing this material provides a double benefit since it eliminates purchase costs for new packing material and also reduces waste. And all it took was a little creativity...and a bit of masking tape!

Have your own innovative recycling story to share? Call the TRRAC Program at the Division of Solid Waste Services at (240) 777-6400.

Recycling — Cost vs. Benefit

The recent economic downturn has negatively impacted many industries, including the recycling industry. Markets for recycled materials including corrugated cardboard, plastic, newspaper and metals have experienced significant declines. The price of cardboard, for example, fell from \$100 to \$15 per ton over the past year. And while the price for aluminum has fallen, it remains over \$1,000 per ton. Ordinarily, recycled materials are purchased by manufacturers that turn recycled material into products like car parts, book covers, and boxes for electronics. If demand for their products decreases, they need less recycled material for their manufacturing processes. Since businesses need less recycled material, prices for purchasing these recyclables have fallen considerably.

However, recycling materials is still less expensive than processing them as waste. No business pays for your trash. And regardless of what the price is for recycled materials, recycling will always be better for the environment due to the associated energy savings and natural resource conservation. The benefits of recycling far outweigh any cost, so in any economy, recycling is the right thing to do. Montgomery County remains committed to increasing recycling across the County and reaching its goal of recycling 50 percent of all waste generated. Thank you for your continued efforts to recycle!



Got Mercury? We'll Take It!

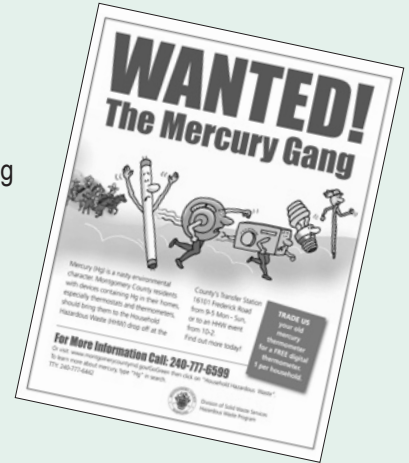
Renovating your apartments or condominiums? Is it time to replace the old thermostats? Older thermostats may contain mercury and should be disposed of properly. The Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) estimates that mercury thermostats contain an average of approximately four grams of mercury; and the amount of mercury varies based on the number of mercury-containing components in the thermostat. It is important to properly dispose of mercury so that it cannot work its way into our water and food supply, thus endangering the health of humans and animals.



To determine if a thermostat contains mercury, carefully remove the front plate and look for a small glass tube containing silver liquid (i.e., mercury). Because the mercury in thermostats is completely enclosed, it does not pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment, unless the glass tube breaks or the product is disposed of in the regular trash.

You can bring mercury thermostats from your property to the household hazardous waste (HHW) receiving area at the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center for disposal at no charge. Other items that contain mercury can be disposed of as part of our ECOWISE program for Small Quantity Generators of hazardous waste. The Transfer Station/Recycling Center is located at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood, and the HHW receiving area is open seven days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The ECOWISE program accepts hazardous waste from Small Quantity Generators on the second Wednesday of every month. Some heating, ventilation, and air conditioning wholesalers that participate in the Thermostat Recycling Corporation program will also dispose of your thermostats free of charge, so be sure to check with them as well.

In addition, when choosing your replacement thermostats, please consider installing mercury-free thermostats at your property. For more information about mercury, other hazardous material recycling or disposal, or the County's ECOWISE program, contact DSWS at 240-777-6459.



Printed on recycled and recyclable paper. ♻️

This information is available in an alternate format by calling Lauren Kuhn at (240) 777-6400.

Important Contact Information
 Division of Solid Waste Services
 (240) 777-6400
 (240) 777-6442 (TTY)
 (240) 777-6465 (Fax)
 www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling
 e-mail: recycling@montgomerycountymd.gov
 Recycling for Multi-Family Properties
 (240) 777-6400
 Recycling for Businesses
 (240) 777-6400
 County Transfer Station
 (240) 777-6560
 County Recycling Center
 (301) 417-1433

Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services
 Multi-Family Recycling Program
 Contact: Lauren Kuhn
 101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor
 Rockville, Maryland 20850



JUNE 2009

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